

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 863

By Yokley

A RESOLUTION to recognize Cocke County for providing unsurpassed leadership to Tennessee, as evidenced by the eight statewide leaders who reside within its borders.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable community servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee is blessed with an abundance of outstanding leadership statewide, but Cocke County stands out as a cradle of leaders; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, Cocke County is remarkably home to eight leaders of statewide associations; and

WHEREAS, Tommy Bible, General Manager of the Jefferson/Cocke County Gas Utility District, became President of the Tennessee Gas Association in 2003 after serving a year as Second Vice President and another as First Vice President; he is also a member of the TGA Legislative Committee; and

WHEREAS, a 1977 graduate of the University of Tennessee, he is a member of the America Public Gas Association Board of Directors, the Kiwanis Club of Newport, the Newport Federal Bank Board of Directors, and Lincoln Avenue Baptist Church and is the Newport/Cocke County Economic Development Commission Chair; and

WHEREAS, he is the husband of the late Penny Bible, the father of McKinley Bible, and the son of Carroll and Juanita Bible; and

WHEREAS, Janice A. Butler, Cocke County Clerk, was named President of the Tennessee Association of County Clerks in October of 2003 after serving one year as Secretary/Treasurer, one as Second Vice President, and another as First Vice President; and

WHEREAS, she is a graduate of the University of Tennessee County Official Training Program and Cocke County's only Certified Public Administrator, and she is active with the

Tennessee County Clerks Organ Donor Awareness Foundation Board of Directors, Tennessee County Clerks Association, Cocke County Republican Women's Club, Newport Order of the Eastern Star #461, and West End Baptist Church and serves as Secretary of the Cocke County Records Commission and Secretary of the Cocke County Beer Board; and

WHEREAS, she is the mother of Cindi Lynne Loveday, the grandmother of Logan MacKenzie Loveday, and the daughter of Della Murr McNabb and the late Connie McNabb; and

WHEREAS, John Chambers, a veterinarian at Appalachian Veterinary Hospital, became President of the Tennessee Veterinary Association in February of 2003; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine, he previously served with distinction as a member of the Eighth Infantry Division attached to the 82nd Airborne at Fort Bragg; and

WHEREAS, after working for a few years in Sweetwater, he and his wife, Jana, returned to Cocke County, where they have greatly enjoyed reconnecting with their roots and raising their children in a positive environment; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Kurt Steele of Drs. Foster and Steele is serving as President of the Tennessee Optometric Association for 2003-2004 after previously serving as Secretary-Treasurer; and

WHEREAS, the husband of Sacha Steele, Dr. Steele is a graduate of Union University and the Southern College of Optometry, he was Young Optometrist of the Year for 1998-99 and is a member of the American Optometric Association, Tennessee Academy of Optometry, Low Vision Society, Kiwanis Club of Newport, United Way of Cocke County, and First United Methodist Church of Newport; and

WHEREAS, Rusty Williams, a longtime farmer in Cocke County and member of the Newport Rescue Squad since 1984, currently serves as President of the Tennessee Association of Rescue Squads; and

WHEREAS, he received the first Educator of the Year Award for TARS in 2001 and has previously served as Vice President, Region I Vice President, Regional Training Coordinator, and as Warrant Officer, Historian, Second Lieutenant, and Unit Director of the Newport Rescue Squad; and

WHEREAS, he is the husband of Jennifer Williams, the father of Lily Kate, and the son of Barnett and Joyce Williams; and

WHEREAS, Frances Shelley, Chief Financial Officer of Rural Medical Services, is President-Elect of the Tennessee Primary Care Association for 2004 and will serve as President in 2005; and

WHEREAS, certified as a medical assistant in administration, she is also a member of Tennessee Christian Endeavor and the American Association of Medical Assistants; and

WHEREAS, she is the wife of Jim Shelley, the mother of Jamie Watts and Candace Elliot, the grandmother of Shelley Watts, Spencer Watts, and Trevor Elliot, and the daughter of the late Joel and Lela McGaha; and

WHEREAS, Willie Green, Owner of Newport Printing and Office Supplies, became AMVETS State Commander in June 2003 after serving as Second Vice Commander for two years and First Vice Commander for two years; and

WHEREAS, he served valiantly in the United States Army from 1961 to 1963 and has also served as AMVETS First District Commander, a member of the AMVETS State By-Laws Committee and the State Finance Committee, and Finance Officer of AMVETS Post 75 in Newport; he is additionally involved with the Douglas Cooperative Board of Directors, the Kiwanis Club of Newport, Del Rio Ruritan Club, Cocke County Adult Education Board of Directors, Newport Fire Civil Service Board, Cocke County Election Commission, and the American Legion; and

WHEREAS, he is married to Robin Marshall Green and the son of the late Nellie Kanipe Green and William C. Green; and

WHEREAS, Keith Ketterman became Chairman of the Tennessee Banking Association in June 2003; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Trevecca Nazarene University, he also serves as President of First People's Bank of Tennessee in Jefferson City and National Bank of Tennessee in Newport and is a Board Member of the Newport/Cocke County Economic Development Commission; and

WHEREAS, he is the husband of Patti Ketterman and the father of a daughter, Melody, a son, Gregory, and two step daughters, Deede and Jamie; and

WHEREAS, these Cocke Countians have distinguished themselves as public spirited citizens of the highest order and as exceptional assets to their community; and

WHEREAS, they are extremely giving people who often reach out with compassion to those whom life has treated unkindly, and they epitomize the ideal of the dedicated community servant and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, their remarkable success as civic leaders is directly attributable to their reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense that are so prevalent in Cocke County; by travelling nationwide in their positions, they have shown the nation the outstanding merits of the citizenry of and quality of living in Cocke County; and

WHEREAS, each of these outstanding leaders is wholly committed to the noble precepts that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State"; they have brought honor to Tennessee and should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby commend Tommy Bible, Janice Butler, Dr. John Chambers, Willie Green, Keith Ketterman, Frances Shelley, Dr. Kurt Steele, and Rusty Williams for their honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee as statewide leaders and honor Cocke County for providing such an unprecedented wealth of leadership to this State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.